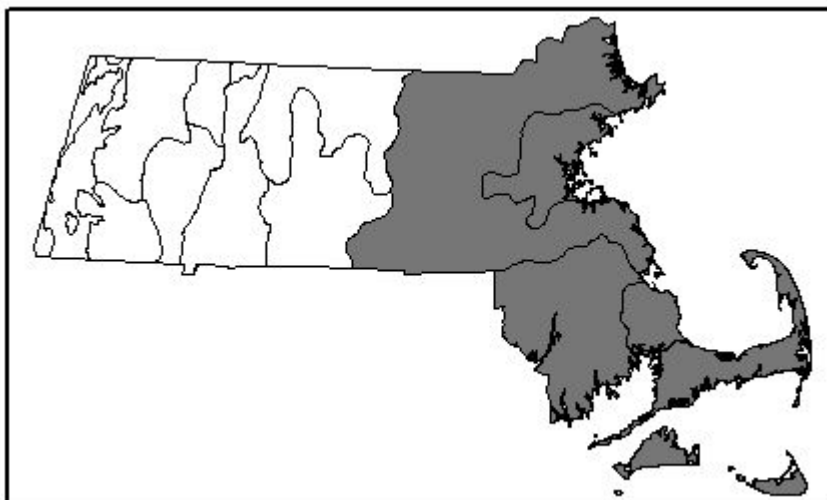


Community Name: MARINE INTERTIDAL: GRAVEL / SAND BEACH
Community CODE: CM2B000000
SRANK: S4



Concept: Invertebrates and nonvascular plants dominate the organisms of this highly stressed community in the intertidal (wave action) zone of beaches.

Environmental setting: Marine beaches exposed between high tides: below the wrack line and above the permanent water. These are high energy habitats. Beach strand communities above the high tide line support sparse vascular plants. Marine subtidal communities occur below the low tide line.

Vegetation Description: Sparse non-vascular plants. Invertebrates are the most abundant group.

Associations:

Habitat Values for Associated Fauna: Many shorebirds, such as Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*), Least Sandpipers (*C. minutilla*), Semipalmated Sandpipers (*C. pusilla*), and Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*), forage along shorelines during migrations. Part of important resting areas for shorebirds when exposed. Piping plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) nest on the beach strand and forage in the wrack line. Gulls (*Larus* spp.) are ubiquitous in all shore and shallow water environments. Tiger beetles also forage on exposed portions of the intertidal beach. Few mammals use this portion of the beach for more than passing through.

Associated rare plants:

NONE KNOWN

Associated rare animals:

CHARADRIUS MELODUS	PIPING PLOVER	T
CICINDELA DORSALIS DORSALIS	NORTHEASTERN BEACH TIGER BEETLE	E

Examples with Public Access: Cape Cod National Seashore; Monomoy NWR, Orleans and Chatham; Horseneck Beach State Reservation, Westport; Parker River NWR, Newbury.

Threats: Disturbance of resting birds by domestic animals, people, and off road vehicles.

Management needs:

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC: Sand, non-vegetated.

MA (old name): Southern New England/Gulf of Maine Intertidal High Energy Sand / Gravel Beach.

ME: Marine: sand beach community and gravel/ cobble beach community.

NH:

NY: Marine intertidal gravel/sand beach.

CT:

RI: Marine intertidal gravel/ sand beach.

Other:

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Date: 1/1/00